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Recommendation for approval of additional regular resources for approved country programmes

Summary

The estimated funding target and financial plan contained in the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) for the period 2002-2005 (E/ICEF/2001/13 and Corr.1) was approved by the Executive Board at its second regular session of 2001 (E/ICEF/2001/6/Rev.1, decision 2001/22). Planning levels for regular resources for country programmes are established on the basis of the approved MTSP, taking into account the latest projections of income and expenditure.

The regular resources indicative planning levels for 2003-2006 have been computed using the modified regular resources allocation system described in document E/ICEF/1997/P/L.17 and Corr.1 and approved by the Executive Board at its 1997 annual session (E/ICEF/1997/12/Rev.1, decision 1997/18). As a result of the application of the modified system and the estimated global levels of regular resources available for programmes in 2003, the level of regular resources planned for seven countries whose programme cycles end in 2003 is higher than the balance of approved regular resources available to these countries.

The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve allocations of additional regular resources in the total amount of $13,146,228 to fund the approved country programmes of seven countries (Angola, Benin, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Kenya, Pakistan and the Philippines) for 2003, whose regular resources planning levels, based on the modified allocation system and estimated global levels of programmable regular resources, are higher than the balance of approved funds for these countries.

* E/ICEF/2002/11.

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I. Introduction

1. The regular resources planning levels for seven countries whose programme cycles end in 2003 are higher than the balances of approved regular resources, as a result of the application of the modified system for allocation of regular resources and revised projections of global levels of regular resources available for allocation to country programmes in 2003. The table below sets out the balance of approved regular resources available to those countries, the regular resources levels planned for each of the countries, and the additional amount of regular resources for which approval is needed to reach the planning level.

Regular resources, 2003

(In United States dollars)

Region/Country	*Balance of approved RR 2003 (A)*	*RR planning level 2003 (B)*	*Amount to be approved (B-A)*
Eastern and Southern Africa			
Angola	1 061 871	5 349 000	4 287 129
Kenya	1 135 642	4 417 000	3 281 358
Subtotal	**2 197 513**	**9 766 000**	**7 568 487**
West and Central Africa			
Benin	146 064	1 689 000	1 542 936
Subtotal	**146 064**	**1 689 000**	**1 542 936**
Americas and the Caribbean			
Ecuador	666 135	774 000	107 865
Subtotal	**666 135**	**774 000**	**107 865**
East Asia and the Pacific			
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	878 851	965 000	86 149
Philippines	1 680 834	2 314 000	633 166
Subtotal	**2 559 685**	**3 279 000**	**719 315**
South Asia			
Pakistan	8 820 375	12 028 000	3 207 625
Subtotal	**8 820 375**	**12 028 000**	**3 207 625**
Total	**14 389 772**	**27 536 000**	**13 146 228**

II. Recommendations for additional regular resources

A. Eastern and Southern Africa

Angola

2. The country programme for Angola, covering the period 1999-2003 (E/ICEF/1998/P/L.8/Add.1), was approved by the Executive Board at its second regular session in September 1998 with an allocation of $18,729,000 in regular resources (E/ICEF/1998/6/Rev.1, decision 1998/15). The increased planning level for 2003 provides the programme with an additional $4,287,129 from regular resources, for which approval is sought.

3. The overall goal of the country programme is to promote the realization of Angolan children's rights, with evidence of impact on the public sector, community and family practices and decision-making by 2003, while maintaining an adequate emergency preparedness and response capacity. The additional regular resources allocation will be used to support the Government's efforts to consolidate peace by assisting in the restoration of basic services across the country, particularly in areas where displaced persons will be returning to their places of origin. Priority will be given to strengthening routine immunization services, including a targeted effort to reduce measles morbidity and mortality; rebuilding maternal and child health services; and assisting at least 330,000 children in returning to school. Sustainable and cost-effective provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene education will also be prioritized, as will efforts to expand birth registration and psychosocial support for children directly affected by armed conflict. The additional resources will also assist UNICEF in responding to acute emergency situations that might arise, for example severe malnutrition and outbreaks of disease.

Kenya

4. The country programme for Kenya, covering the period 1999-2003 (E/ICEF/1998/P/L.10/Add.1), was approved by the Executive Board at its second regular session in September 1998 with an allocation of $16,785,000 in regular resources (E/ICEF/1998/6/Rev.1, decision 1998/15). The increased planning level for 2003 provides the programme with an additional $3,281,358 from regular resources, for which approval is sought.

5. Within a framework calling for the promotion of the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of children's rights, the objectives of the programme are to: (a) improve access to basic services in urban slums and informal settlements; (b) reduce major disparities between the genders and in access to services between nomadic and non-nomadic areas; (c) support the Government in establishing and implementing effective policies in key areas of social development to improve access and equity; (d) achieve greater sustainability of programme processes by strengthening community capacity and participation; (e) increase awareness of the rights of children and women; and (f) support research on cultural practices that affect the fulfilment of rights. The additional funds will allow UNICEF to expand the programme to include increasing awareness of HIV/AIDS among youth and building capacities to support implementation of the Children's Act, which entered into law in March 2002, especially with regard to protection issues and the ability of the court system to manage cases brought before the courts as a result of the new

act. In addition, funds will be used to increase planned interventions in the area of girls' education, especially in the north-east, and the development of an integrated early childhood development programme. Resources will also be used for the UNICEF contribution to the development of the second phase of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

B. West and Central Africa

Benin

6. The country programme for Benin, covering the period 1999-2003 (E/ICEF/1998/P/L.11/Add.1), was approved by the Executive Board at its second regular session in September 1998 with an allocation of $5,913,000 in regular resources (E/ICEF/1998/6/Rev.1, decision 1998/15). The increased planning level for 2003 provides the programme with an additional $1,542,936 from regular resources, for which approval is sought.

7. The goal of the programme is to contribute to improving the well-being of children and women and to reinforce knowledge about and respect for their rights. The specific objectives are to support the reduction of infant and under five mortality by 20 and 25 per cent respectively and to attain a 78-per-cent primary-school enrolment rate. The 2001 mid-term review (MTR) resulted in a revised country programme structure for better integration of new intersectoral dimensions (HIV/AIDS, adolescence and early childhood). The additional funds will support interventions to expand activities and research on prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, which has been conducted in 33 maternity clinics in Cotonou, to the entire country within the next few years. The education project has developed several innovations to promote girls' education, which proved to increase significantly their enrolment and retention rates in the areas of intervention, while reducing disparities between boys and girls. As girls' education has been adopted as a priority for the country programme, UNICEF will support the Ministry of Education in implementing this approach on a much larger scale. The additional resources will also support the establishment of an integrated action plan in favour of the young child in the zones of programme convergence, as recommended by the MTR. The programme comprises protection of children affected by AIDS, provision of psychological support to HIV-positive mothers, birth registration, parental education and the integration of early childhood in all projects, with emphasis on the family and on the 0-3-year age group.

C. The Americas and Caribbean

Ecuador

8. The country programme for Ecuador, covering the period 1999-2003 (E/ICEF/1998/P/L.15/Add.1), was approved by the Executive Board at its second regular session in September 1998 with an allocation of $3,799,000 in regular resources (E/ICEF/1998/6/Rev.1, decision 1998/15). The increased planning level for 2003 provides the programme with an additional $107,865 from regular resources, for which approval is sought.

9. The country programme's objectives are to: (a) ensure broad consensus in public policy formulation to address the gaps still remaining for achieving the goals of the World Summit for Children; (b) strengthen communities so that they can also support and apply national policies at municipal level; and (c) establish, in selected municipalities, pilot systems for the integrated protection of all children which combine actions in the areas of health, education and the environment, focusing on the most needy. In the context of the economic and social crisis which began in 1998, the Government of Ecuador has made significant efforts to increase social spending, but these efforts need to be enhanced through sustained advocacy and tangible measures for effective social spending. The crisis has also highlighted the need to enforce public policies to ensure universal access and exercise of children's rights. UNICEF will invest the additional resources in two major strategic actions: (a) within the public policies and rights programme, it will promote sustained increases in social investment and promote consensus on measures to ensure this investment; and (b) within the programme of enhancing participation for children's and women's rights, it will disseminate social indicators and mobilize key political, economic and social leaders, decision makers and shapers of public opinion to prioritize public policies that pursue universal fulfilment of children's rights.

D. East Asia and Pacific

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

10. The country programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, covering the period 2001-2003 (E/ICEF/2000/14), was approved by the Executive Board at its second regular session in September 2000 with an allocation of $2,761,00 in regular resources (E/ICEF/2000/8/Rev.1, decision 2000/12). The increased planning level for 2003 provides the programme with an additional $86,149 from regular resources, for which approval is sought.

11. The overall goal of the programme is to support national efforts to sustain gains in achieving the World Summit for Children goals, and to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and priority actions for children. The additional resources will support the health and nutrition programme to address the problems of low immunization coverage and child mortality due to the high incidence of malnutrition, diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infections and micronutrient deficiencies.

Philippines

12. The country programme for the Philippines, covering the period 1999-2003 (E/ICEF/1998/P/L.16/Add.1), was approved by the Executive Board at its second regular session in September 1998 with an allocation of $12,499,000 in regular resources (E/ICEF/1998/6/Rev.1, decision 1998/15). The increased planning level for 2003 provides the programme with an additional $633,166 from regular resources, for which approval is sought.

13. The overall objective of the programme of cooperation is to support the Government in progressively implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child through strengthening its capacities to manage basic services; and enhancing the full participation of civil society to support families' efforts to raise, nurture and protect their children. The core strategy is the Child-Friendly Movement, which

involves families, communities, local and national government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The programme includes components for communication, local policy and institutional development, and provides strategic programme support in the areas of health, nutrition, education, child protection and gender and development. The strategy mix focuses on advocacy, technical support and capacity-building, and service delivery focused on selected provinces and cities to enhance disparity reduction. The additional regular resources will support the achievement of the programme objectives for the remainder of the current cycle.

E. South Asia

Pakistan

14. The country programme for Pakistan, covering the period 1999-2003 (E/ICEF/1998/P/L.19/Add.1), was approved by the Executive Board at its second regular session in September 1998 with an allocation of $56,943,000 in regular resources (E/ICEF/1998/6/Rev.1, decision 1998/15). The increased planning level for 2003 provides the programme with an additional $3,207,625 from regular resources, for which approval is sought.

15. The programme aims to: (a) enhance political commitment to the rights of children and women; (b) facilitate the revision and enforcement of the required legislation; and (c) ensure the allocation of resources with a goal of 20 per cent of total government expenditure for social sectors. Based on the recommendations of the MTR, the programme will utilize the additional regular resources to focus during the remaining years of the cycle (2002-2003) on priorities that are within the context of the medium-term strategic plan. This will support the achievement of such results as polio eradication, breakthroughs in routine immunization and increasing access to quality education for girls and boys. Protection of children from abuse and neglect, also a major focus, will also require more attention and funding in 2003.